

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

Vol 16.3, Issue #68

October 2006

www.Fly-inClub.org

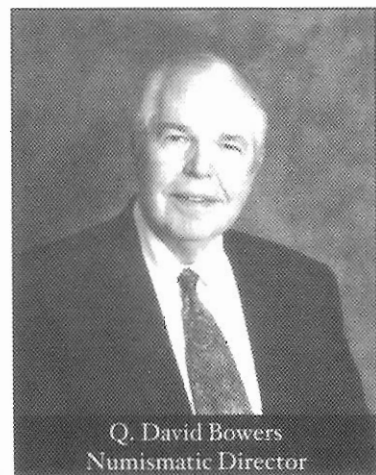


Coveted 1856 Snow-1

(see page 9 for details)

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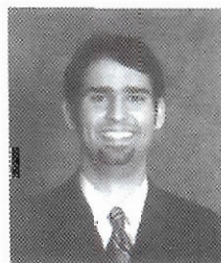
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Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to James Barton Longacre, with emphasis on his work as Chief Engraver of the Mint from 1844 to 1869, with a primary focus on his Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

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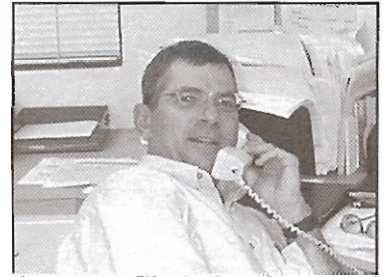


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President's Letter

by Chris Pilliod



The holidays are upon us and that means the FUN Show is right around the corner. This is a great show, especially for those of us in the northern climate, where for a few days we leave behind the bleak, gray skies and head to the sunny skies of Orlando. Airfare, lodging and meals are actually very affordable in Orlando as the competition for this market is very strong. As such most large cities offer direct flights at surprisingly low fares. And the coin show is a great one. It comprises a huge bourse floor, with so many dealer tables set up I have never been able to fully make a tour. There is also an excellent slate of numismatic presentations as well as meetings. So if you have never been to a FUN Show, you should give it serious consideration.

With the market continuing to be very robust, there should be plenty of great Indian cents and Flying Eagles flying around. There has never been a **FUN show** that I didn't bring home at least one prize for my collection. The Fly-In Club is scheduled to have a general meeting on Friday at 1 p.m. in the Orlando Convention Center. The preliminary topic will be a study of overdates.

On to business... I want to take a minute to go over the **ANA Money Show**, which took place in August in Denver. What a great location for an ANA Show. The back of the convention center was two blocks away from the Denver Mint, which is still housed in its original grand structure from 1906. I am not sure if the ANA planned it this way, but the show is coinciding with the Mint's 100th Anniversary. Every day for a break, I would run over to the building for a quick tour and to soak up some of its history. I found out what a fascinating history the **Denver Mint** offers.

Gold was discovered around Denver City (now Denver), Colorado in the late 1850's. With no mint in the region most prospectors sold their nuggets to

a private "mint" run by two Clark brothers and Gruber. **Clark & Gruber** would assay, melt and cast the gold nuggets into ingots. In 1860 the enterprising team discovered that legally they could issue "coins" rather than ingots—resulting in a much more desirable product. In 1860 and 1861 they issued thousands of Gold "coins" under their moniker. Congress realized it needed to act, so in 1862 both houses decreed that a mint be established in Denver for purposes of striking gold coins.

The government negotiated with Clark & Gruber the purchase of their existing building and contents for \$25,000.00. Congress also authorized funds to enlarge the existing building for its needs. However, because of hostility with Indian tribes in the region and a severe economic depression in the 1870's no coinage was struck in Denver for decades. The 1880's went by with still no coinage struck by Denver, and then again the 1890's. Finally in 1896 Congress approved the establishment of a new mint building in Denver. Numerous delays ensued and coining did not commence until February 1906. Unlike other branch mints, Denver quickly established itself as an efficient and productive facility. Today it carries along with Philadelphia the burden of producing all the nation's circulating coinage. Other tidbits of interest include the famous cents struck in Denver in 1922. That year while striking Lincoln cents the mintmark "D" was accidentally polished off a die, resulting in the famous 1922 no "D" cents.

The only robbery of a United States Mint occurred at Denver. Coins from the Mint itself were not stolen, but rather currency. The nearby Federal Reserve Bank frequently utilized the Mint's vaults to store overflow currency. On the morning of December 18, 1922, a total of \$200,000 in new five dollar bills was ready for transfer from the Mint to the Federal Reserve. Just as the bank's truck was

loaded with the bundles of cash, three men rushed with guns blazing. A bank guard was mortally wounded before Mint security could return fire. Under a rain of bullets, one of the thieves grabbed the loot and hopped into the getaway car where he was joined by his companions. The guard on duty at the foyer that day pointed to a piece of marble missing from a pillar, the result of a ricocheted bullet from that day. The quarter-sized divot had been worn smooth from the tourist attention it had received.

Thankfully, we didn't have any such excitement on Friday afternoon of the show when we had a small but **lively Club meeting**. Before the meeting commenced I was introduced to a supervisor from the Denver Mint who wandered on over to the Show from his job. We were engulfed in a discussion of the Wisconsin Quarter with Added Leaf as he was the supervisor on duty when his inspector walked up to him with the blemished quarters.

"What is this?" his worker asked.

"I dunno," he said to the inspector, scratching his head, "maybe a come-together? Whatever it is, get the dies out of service now!" "Come-together" is mint parlance for a clashed die. Well, not a come-together by any means, but a great variety nonetheless. We sat and chatted and brainstormed how such an error could be created. By the time we had it hammered out I was late for the Fly-In meeting and was given 20 demerits.

But we did enjoy a nice gathering of about 20 attendees. I was able to meet some members I have spoken to and communicated with for years but never met. Quent Hansen is a long time member from Omaha who drove across the prairie along with his wife. After some preliminary business, we had show-and tell and I also gave a presentation on the **1888/7 Die #2** on Powerpoint, which I plan to do a larger version at the FUN Show. We will meet at the **Orlando Convention Center** on Friday, January 5th at 1 p.m. The room number is 330B

If you would like to contribute to the *Ledger*, please send any workings to our editor, Frank Leone.

Fly-In Club Editor

Frank Leone

P.O. Box 170

Glen Oaks, NY 11004

email: flrc@aol.com

If you would like to share any thoughts, my email address is: cpilliod@msn.com ♥

Variety Census Undertaken

Hello fellow Fly-In members,

I would like to take this opportunity to make a request of the membership. I have had a good response from the members on the Talk Forum so far. I would like to make an attempt to list all of the Fly-in member's FE and IHC varieties on our web site. It would give us an Idea of quantity and grade of the groups varieties. I have made a request on the Talk Forum to have a list of all your varieties either emailed to : tdnoble@sbcglobal.net or mailed to

Census
P.O. Box 220904
Kirkwood, MO. 63122.

All personal info will be kept strictly confidential, no name, addresses etc., only coin info will be placed on the website. Much like the "Bust Nut Club" and other specialty clubs do, it would be nice to have some idea of what varieties are out there, and how many our group have in hand. If you have any questions or suggestions about the project, please feel free to email me at the above email address.

Thanks,

Dave Noble
Webmaster

Three Counterfeits – 1864-L, 1872 and 1872

by Richard Snow

This article will deal with three well-made counterfeits that were recently submitted for authentication. The first we'll explore is a crude 1872 piece that shouldn't deceive any collector. However, possibly a non-collector or novice may be fooled. The coin is cast and has very rough design elements. Thanks to George Graff for sharing this piece.

The next coin is a false die counterfeit 1877. This coin is good enough at a distance to fool most people, but with a close examination, you will probably detect this one easily. It is a spark-erosion counterfeit with lots of artificial circulation "wear". The edges are obviously

filed down. On a coin of this grade you would not expect to see sharp edges, so the counterfeiter mechanically reduced their sharpness. Both sides are worn down to hide much of the evidence of the transfer, which is usually seen as light raised limbs throughout the coin. The field areas on the dies are typically highly polished to remove the pits (on the die). In this case they are still visible but only faintly.

The big give-away is the Bold N reverse, which is only found on Proofs this year. The detail is very mushy, especially when compared to the genuine example.



1872 cast counterfeit submitted by George Graff is not very deceptive.



Obverse and reverse of 1877 cent struck with false dies. Note the Bold N reverse which is only found on proofs of this year.



Obverse and reverse of a genuine 1877 cent. Note the Shallow N reverse and sharper details.



Compare date and bust details of the counterfeit at left and the genuine coin at right. Note how the devices of the genuine coin bear sharp edges.



Compare legend details of the counterfeit at left and the genuine coin at right. The counterfeit at left displays “mushy” details.

The third example is an off-center 1864 With L, which is made with spark-erosion, dies. This piece is very well made and could fool many people, especially if they are too excited about the off-center error to see the real flaw with this coin. Remember that counterfeiters can make nearly any error the Mint can make. In fact they get more bang for their efforts by faking errors than just rare dates.

This coin is extremely sharp with prooflike fields. Hmmm, Prooflike? That sounds weird for a 1864 With L! Anyway, the blank that is exposed shows a raised rim

– just like what we would expect for a Type 2 planchet. But wait! The reverse is not upset; it’s rounded the other way! It appears the counterfeiter impressed a rounded blank die onto the obverse to give it the upset rim look, but didn’t feel anyone would look at the reverse.

The struck area has some distinctive raised pimples in the field, which is a clear reason to be concerned. The close up picture shows one of these under the chin of LIBERTY. The reverse is a Bold N die, which wasn’t used on this issue.



Error coins are not immune to the work of a counterfeiter. This 1864-L struck off center is not genuine. Both the dies and the planchet expose this imposter. Note the Bold N reverse which was not used in the year 1864.



Close up of "pimples" on the off center 1864-L counterfeit. These markings are an excellent tell-tale sign of the spark erosion process.

Ron Sirna presented this coin for this article. Ron is a Lawyer by trade and has offered to look into giving collectors who donate counterfeits to The Fly-In Club Counterfeit Library a tax-exempt gift status. This way

they can possibly recoup any loss suffered from purchasing a counterfeit. I feel this is a great idea and we'll be working on getting the necessary paperwork done.



On the Cover

by Rick Snow



The 1856 Flying Eagle Cent is 150 years old this year! The coin pictured on the cover is the coveted Snow-1 with the "Tilted ONE CENT" reverse, which is believed to be the reverse of the first 1856 die pair used. The alignment of the obverse die is rotated so that the Eagle fly's upward as in the Gobrecht Dollars the design was copied from. ♥

Collecting Memories

by CPT Ryan R. Renken

Back in late December of 1987, I moved with my family to Oahu, Hawaii. We lived in a hotel for a few months while waiting to get into military base housing on Kaneohe MCAS. During this time, we stumbled onto a collectibles store in the Ala Moana Shopping Center in downtown Honolulu. My dad picked up a \$500 CSA note on our first trip. (I got to get a \$20 CSA note). This was where my interest in coin collecting took off and I was hooked.

Over the next few months, relatives would send me pennies and other old coins. We settled on the windward side of the island when housing on base became available and started visiting Mr. Harold E. King's coin shop: Windward Coins in Kailua, Hawaii. Mr. King was known as Don. The shop was (and still is) at 28 Oneawa Street, Kailua, Hawaii. As a child, I was impressed and remembered Mr. King's business cards were made out of metal.

My dad purchased the 1987 Red Book from the collectibles shop, and we got a Whitman blue album for Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents from Mr. King. That was the basis for our list of what pennies we needed.

I can still remember going into his shop on Saturdays with my parents looking at coins for hours. Looking at that 1987 Red Book today is just a time warp. (Especially at my dad's penciled in notes of grades purchased and prices paid.) We met a gentleman at Mr. King's who carried around in his pocket an 1895 Morgan dollar because he thought it had had its mintmark removed. He got me interested in Morgan Dollars by sharing the story of that coin with me. However, my Morgan collection is only about 5 coins.

The first Gulf War put coin collecting with my father on hold, and we moved away from Hawaii in the summer of 1991 when he returned. Thus our coin collecting took a break for about nine years.

When I went off to West Point in 1998 and I got a little energized at upgrading some of the common low-grade coins (as you can see in the list below), I also went through each coin with my trusty 1987 Red Book and graded them myself. There are no slabbed coins in our

set, mind you. So yes, there are bound to be some grading errors. I graduated in 2002 from West Point and went to Fort Gordon, GA for officer basic.

In January of 2003, I was sent to Korea. Enroute, I stopped back in Hawaii to see Mr. King, other friends and take a vacation before getting to Korea. Unfortunately, I was a few years too late as Mr. King had passed away.

In December of 2004, after 23 months in Korea, my two tours were over, and I was sent to Camp Roberts, CA. In 2005, I was able to devote more time to my interest again in collecting coins. However, I was looking at the \$20 Double Eagles. Months passed and I had forgotten about coins until one day in June 2006, while surfing Amazon.com. I purchased some books on Double Eagles. I then remembered the penny collection my dad and I had started.

I found an advertisement in the Whitman Double Eagle Gold Coins book for Ronald J. Gillio's shop in Santa Barbara, CA (Well's Fargo Hoard fame). Being that it's only two hours from my house, I decided to take a trip down to Santa Barbara to see some Saint-Gaudens in person. After digging some more on the Internet, I found that a coin show was to take place on July 15, 2006, at the Earl Warren Fair Grounds in Santa Barbara.

Remembering my Whitman binder of Indian Head pennies having three holes: 1856, 1888/7 and the 1877, I settled on scouting out either the 1888/7 or the 1877. (The 1856 will come in due time.) One of those two coins was my goal for the show. And as one was a variety, I focused on the regular date, non-pattern, and non-variety coin.

With only two dealers selling an 1877 at the show and not seeing an 1888/7 (another reason for focusing on the 1877), I settled on purchasing an 1877 from Charmy Harker, "The Penny Lady" will be a place holder for the time being in my collection. Unfortunately, my blue binder with all my Indians and Flying Eagles sits in Virginia with my folks (along with that 1987 Red Book). I have the 1877 with me and it keeps my interest going.

After the purchase I called to tell my dad, “We’re done.” We now have a penny from each mint from 1857 to 1909. All the years are covered and a few common varieties, too.

Yes, it is now time to upgrade my collection. But I am not getting rid of the coins my dad and I got from Mr. King. In the list below, if there is not an * by the grade, chances are, we got that penny from Mr. King in Kailua, Hawaii, between 1988 and 1991.

1857	F-15
1858 LL	VF-20
1858 SL	EF-40
1859	VG-10
1860	VF-20
1861	VG-10
1862	G-4
1863	VF-20
1864 CN	G-4
1864 BR	G-4
1864 L	EF-40
1865	G-4
1866	G-4
1867	G-4
1868	G-4
1869	G-4
1870	G-4
1871	G-4
1872	G-4
1873	G-4 (not sure if it’s open or closed. Time for an upgrade anyway)
1874	G-4
1875	VG
1876	VG
1877	G*
1878	VG
1879	VF-20
1880	EF-40
1881	EF-40
1882	G-4
1883	EF-40
1884	G-4
1885	G-4
1886 I	(I do not recall off hand if types I and II were in the 1987 Red Book)
1886 II	G-4
1887	Fair
1888	G-4
1889	G-4
1890	G-4
1891	MS-60*

1892	G-4
1893	G-4
1894	G-4
1895	G-4
1896	G-4
1897	AU-58*
1898	G-4
1899	MS-63*
1900	AU-50
1901	G-4
1902	MS-60*
1903	AU-50*
1904	G-4
1905	VF-20
1906	AU-50*
1907	MS-62*
1908	EF-40
1908-S	VG-8
1909	EF-40
1909-S	VF-20

Next on my list of things to do is to photo document each coin, get another Whitman Album, and start with my ‘upgraded set’. I know you’re all wanting to see that 1987 Red Book with the notes my dad kept. ;-]



Longacre Challenge

by Darrell Tyler

Back in the month of May I invited members of the Richmond Coin Club in Richmond Virginia to participate in a challenge I created to spur on interest, knowledge, and collecting of Longacre's Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents. The challenge was dubbed the Longacre Challenge. In it were 15 slabbed Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents varying from grades G6 to PRF65 plus a 16th coin that was slabbed as a Snow variety and would be used to break ties if there were any. The coins all had their grades securely covered during the duration of the four months.

To my surprise a number of people did not want to participate at first for fear of being judged as either prurient or inconsistent graders. Emphasis had to be placed on the esthetics of the coins, the self challenge and just simply doing something different. The competitors got to grade the coins three times over a four month period before the start of the coin club's monthly meetings. Mr. Robert Grubenhoff of Ashland, Virginia arose victorious with an average score of 125.97 out of a possible 150. So of course I had some questions for him:

DT: How long have you been collecting?

RG: I started when I was 8 yrs old collecting wheat cents and silver coins getting them from pool tables, pin ball machines, and finding them in change.

DT: What made you want to compete in the Longacre Challenge?

RG: I just want to see how I would do. I believe in learning as much as you can about grading.

DT: What do you concentrate on when grading Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents (FE and IH cents) ?

RG: I look at the rim, the field then details then the high points of the coin. Then I look at the eye appeal of the coin.

DT: What is the hardest part of grading FE & IH Cents?

RG: The hardest part for me was not knowing the coin totally, i.e. double dates, and what years had weak strikes due to die problems.

DT: What is the easiest part of grading FE & IH Cents?

RG: I would have to say on the FE the feather on the wings give a lot of details of the coin like the LIB-ERTY on the IH.

DT: What instructions would you provide a new collector interested in collecting FE & IH Cents?

RG: Get to know the coin as much as you can. Weak strikes, errors, double dates. Read info, ask question look at grade coins to help you also.

DT: You graded the selected coins very close to what 3rd party grading services graded them; What do you think 3rd party grading services get right when they grade FE & IH Cents?

RG: This is not the best answer to give but the holder will protect the coin from damage for a long period of time and they help you establish a base line on grading them.

DT: What do you think 3rd party grading services get wrong when they grade FE & IH Cents?

RG: Again not the best answer but it shows everyone is human. They grade so many types of coins.

DT: Would you encourage others to compete in the grading challenge?

RG: Yes, very much so. You can always improve your skill or tone them up. But if you are putting a collection together of Flying Eagles and Indian Heads you should know how to grade them at the levels that you are collecting them. This can save you time and money from doubles of the same grade.

DT: Thank you. ♥

Die Making History

by Chris Pilliod

For most collectors, there is nothing glamorous about turning a 2-pound hunk of steel into a working die to strike coins. But for a metallurgist with a passion for numismatics, there is little I find that is more fascinating. To top it off, unraveling the mysteries of diemaking at the United States Mint offers a basket full of challenges since there are virtually no documents or records detailing vital information to the diemaking process, from the procurement of the raw steel to the mechanics of manufacturing. As a result, any research efforts must be focused on the study of coinage itself. A brief overview of the diemaking process of the United States Mint from 1792 until present reveals an organization that defines the old saying, “Necessity is the Mother of Invention”.

The early years of our nation was a time of rapid population growth coupled with westward expansion. Mediums of exchange included a potpourri of foreign coins such as the Spanish Pieces of Eight but also wampum as well as beaver pelts and the like. The role of the first Mint in Philadelphia was clear—quickly provide the nation needed coinage to standardize a chaotic monetary system of exchange.

Unlike today’s times with huge bank and personal reserves of hard coinage, the first Mint was starting from scratch trying to fill a massive economic void. The demand for hard coinage was so great that by the time the first pieces were being struck in 1792 the Mint building was still under construction. And in those nascent times, there were times when presses stood idle while waiting for fresh dies to strike coins.

This can be witnessed by the inordinate number of early US dies exhibiting heavy die breaks as well as complete fractures, known as “cuds” to collectors. Early coins were manually inspected for quality, and without a doubt these imperfections were noticed. Heavy demand forced the presses to keep running as no fresh dies were available as replacements. In later years, after diemaking became simplified and no longer a bottleneck, large cuds on specific dies become much rarer, an empirical indication that blemished dies were removed from service once a defect was discovered. So just how cumbersome was diemaking in the early years?

1792 through 1836, the Dark, Early Days.

Early diemaking required much more manual intervention than imaginable. Die steels called “Hobs” were prepared with the central image engraved into it. For early US coinage this was the primary image of Miss Liberty for the obverse and an eagle for the reverse. These were then impressed under extreme pressure into a die steel that was softened by annealing. Any additional details, such as stars, all lettering such “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”, as well as the date and so on were subsequently added through the use of manual punches.

The die was subsequently hardened by heating and quenching in some aqueous medium, perhaps brine. It was then tempered to alleviate stress and toughen it prior to being placed into service. Limited analysis and statistics performed on early US dies indicate a surprisingly high level of quality. This statement is borne out by studies on early US Bust Halves. Al Overton’s pioneering research focused on early Bust Halves. Based on variations in engraving, die cracks, and so on he identified 450 die pairs used to strike the total mintage of 82.34 million Half Dollars from 1807 through 1836. This computes to an average life of 183,000 strikes per die, surprisingly similar to today’s life expectancy of a Kennedy Half Dollar.

1827, A Benchmark is Found.

As the nation’s ranks bloomed to 11 Million and headed west, it became clear to the Mint that it could no longer produce dies at the rate required to meet the commercial demands of the country. The greatest advance in the history of diemaking occurred after Franklin Peale’s visit to Europe in 1827. Great things had been heard about how “beautiful” the coinage coming from the European Mints. The purpose was to study a device known as a Continmin Reducing lathe in use at the Paris Mint. This unit was capable of transferring fine details from an enlarged plaster or metal rendition of the coin’s entire design to produce high quality hubs. These hubs would subsequently be used to impress this image into working dies. For diemakers, this held the possibility of eliminating much manual intervention, including much of the tedious detailing work. Procurement was slow and the first Continmin lathe was not in

use at the Mint until 1836. As a result nearly all the design could be machined into the hub. After hubbing and prior to final heat treatment the following elements were hand punched into each working die:

- DATE
- MINTMARK
- STARS

It is unclear during this time how date punches were produced, it is possible they were outsourced. Regardless, certainly by the early 1850's and perhaps even the 1840's all four digits were in a single gang punch and thus simultaneously stamped into each working die with a blow.

1840, a Curious Year.

Just four years after commissioning the Continmin lathe, the Mint added the stars to the obverse design of the working hub. Stars now were no longer required to be hand-punched into the dies. This change is identifiable by what is known as the "With Drapery" issues for Seated coinage. Why was this not done initially in 1836? A ponderous question, one researchers do not know the answer. All that was now left for the die engraver to add would be the date and mintmark for dies heading to any of the branch mints in service.

Fortunately for us Indian Cent collectors, this still means plenty of opportunity for doubled dies and repunched dates. Given the relatively large quantities of dies made during their production, not surprisingly there exists a treasure trove of varieties to seek out. I have said this before but it bears repeating, of all the 19th Century coinage if there is one series that still holds a major discovery piece, it would be the Indian Cent series. So keep on looking!!!

1909, a small change with big consequences.

While advancements in reducing lathe technology occurred in ensuing years after 1840, it would be almost 70 years before the next milestone in diemaking. By this time the nation's population had swelled to 92 Million. 1909 rested smack in the middle of the Great Immigration period in our history, when our nation opened its arms to nearly 30 Million outsiders, yearning for the fruits of the Promised Land. Often they took whatever menial jobs were available, and having two nickels to rub together took on much more than a figurative meaning. Hard coinage came under excruciating demand, as witnessed by the fact that an overwhelming amount of Barber coinage exhibits heavy circulation. Historically, production of United States cents represents well over half of the Mint's total strikings. And by 1907 cent mintage had skyrocketed past 100 Million. Numismatists estimate that over one thousand cent dies were needed to fulfill this obligation.

Towards the end of 1908 the Mint began experimenting with placing the entire date in the Master Die for cents. And by 1909 it was incorporated into all of the US diemaking. This alleviated the need for the engraver to tediously hand punch the date into each working die, and also put an end to variety's collectors searches for repunched dates (RPD's). For flexibility and convenience the mintmark was still required to be punched in by hand. It was this seemingly small adaptation that had profound consequences. It meant that dies for use in Philadelphia, the Mother Mint carrying the vast load of the nation's coinage burden, could now be made with no manual handiwork needed. This greatly streamlined the diemaking process and enabled the Mint to produce dies at an unprecedented rate. And it was just in time. By 1919 demand for coinage resulted in a record production of cents—the three mints of Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco combined to put out over half of a billion small coppers, two-thirds of which would be Philly's contribution.

The 1990's, Modern Innovations.

By 1982 a record 16.7 billion (yes, billion) cents were produced. Even if each die produced 1,000,000 coins, over 16,000 sets (32,000 dies) would have been needed just for cents alone in 1982! The die shop was groaning under the strain. Discussions were initiated and by 1994 ground was being broken for a new Die Shop in Denver. The modern facility was operational by 1996.

To additionally facilitate diemaking, beginning in 1993 all details, including date and mintmark were hubbed into the Master Die. This spelled the end of 200 years of requiring a die engraver to perform any handiwork, and closed the final chapter on those collectors seeking repunched mintmarks (RPM's).

Four years later, in 1997, the "single squeeze" process was introduced, with each die requiring only a single hubbing. Not only did this further streamline die manufacturing, it also eliminated the possibility of a doubled die, considered a prize find by variety collectors. (Editor's Note – Fast forward to the year 2005 and just about every Minnesota state quarter is struck from a doubled die.)

SUMMARY — In stark contrast to the rudimentary diemaking methods employed by the early Mint—with artist's stamping and chiseling their handiwork into each working die, today's technology allows for mass production of dies with barely a human hand touching the die steel from start to finish. ♥

Indian Cent Exonumismatica II

by Frank Leone

Back by popular demand. A few members wrote in and suggested continuing this article with more examples. There is probably enough material buried in my collection for several more issues so I shall take a whack at it.

First up is a counterstamped Indian cent. Only the digits 18 4 can be seen on the coin but it can be positively identified as an 1864 Bronze based on the date punch style of the 18. Being just two letters with a fancy star

between them, the value would be minimal. As a matter of fact, this coin came to me in a cull lot so somebody felt it was just about worthless. I think it is a 10 dollar item for the right customer. At page bottom, a 1908 Indian cent with a worthless single letter counterstamp.

Elongates on Indian cents were discussed last issue and since there is no shortage of different designs found we can look at some more. Be sure to continuing reading as there will be a twist on these Indian cent types.



Counterstamps made up of a few random characters are of little value.



Of even less value than the above, this counterstamp bears just a single letter.

World's Fairs from the years over are a common theme amongst elongates. Pieces with original, time assisted color are my favorite. They make you think back to what it was like to attend such a show.

The 1904 World's Fair celebrated the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase, and the 1804 expedition of Lewis and Clark which both began and ended in St. Louis. Tasty items that debuted at the show were the hot dog in bun and Dr. Pepper soda. On the more serious side, the baby incubator was a popular attraction. Incubators for premature babies were invented in the latter half of the 19th century. A time when a premature baby had just a

15% chance of survival. Fast forward to 2006 and babies 3 months premature have a chance at survival.

The elongated 1904 Indian cent is a memento from this Exposition. Festival Hall is featured on this uniface piece with the obverse of the Indian cent still easily observed on the reverse.

Illustrated at the bottom of this page is one from the 1933 Chicago's World Fair. The date and place were not coincidental. The City of Chicago was incorporated in 1833. This particular Fair celebrated a "Century of Progress". Again, one of the most popular attractions



Elongated 1904 Indian cent celebrates the 1904 World's Fair. The official name for the Fair was the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

was the Infant Incubator building. One would have to surmise that survival rates for new babies were a widespread issue in this era. Nowadays, we take such things for granted.

The Travel & Transport Building graces its obverse and the ghost image of a 1902 Indian cent can be seen on the uniface reverse. Most elongates are uniface but some are given designs on both sides. Earlier, I mentioned



Elongated 1902 Indian cent celebrates the Travel & Transport Building at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair

there would be a twist in this article. The next two “elongates” appear to be on Indian cents at first glance. A closer look proves otherwise. Shown here is the Mount Rushmore piece. (South Dakota is the proud home of many national parks.) On the reverse is what looks like the obverse of the Indian cent. In actuality it is merely a crude rendition by someone outside the

mint. Possibly done by a first grader it is so bad. The Indian cent detail, although crude, is raised suggesting this may be a double sided elongate. However, since these pieces are completely flat and the exact same dimensions as each other, I conclude they are not elongates at all but of some other manufacture.



Mount Rushmore token appears to be on an elongated Indian cent at first glance when in fact it is not.

The Stand Rock token at the bottom of this page bears the same Indian cent design on the reverse. The obverse reads STAND ROCK at top and DELLS OF THE WISCONSIN RIVER below. I hadn't known this before but the Dells are a five mile gorge on the Wisconsin River known for its dramatic rock formations. Note the same Indian reverse die used on this piece matches the above Mount Rushmore example. On this token, you can even read a full date and that being 1905. I do not know the

origin of these pieces but they would likely price less than the other true elongates mentioned in this article. In the next issue of Ledger, I will share some love tokens on Indian cents. Most are the usual fancy initials but others are fantastic pictorials. I sense you shivering with anticipation ! ♥



Stand Rock token utilizes the same Indian cent die used on the Mount Rushmore token above.

The 1888/7 S2 - Is it an overdate?

by Tim Larson, MD

While studying the 1888/887 S2 overdate recently, I began to wonder if it was an 1888/887 overdate AND an 1888/1888 RPD or an 1888/1888 RPD with unusual markings to make it LOOK as though it's an 1888/887 overdate. The non-controversial MPD will be ignored for discussion purposes. I don't know the answer and would appreciate additional input and research from the society, especially from those with an interest and access to high-grade specimens. No matter what the answer, it remains an intriguing variety. Consider the following.

1. The only reasonable way to explain the bulge in the "waist" of the last eight is from another 8. It could not have resulted from a seven. It is evident on all three 8's, becoming progressively more prominent from the first to the third.

2. There are additional clues to the orientation and slant of the underdate that are not classically described. There is the tip of a serif from the underdate 1 along the left upright of the overdate 1. Additional portions of an underdate 8 are evident in the lower loops of the first and second overdate 8's and the upper loop of the third 8.

3. If one then makes an overlay of 1888 and superimposes it on all the underdate features mentioned in #2 above, it slants considerably to the "south". The bottom of the last 8 would extend partially into the denticles. It would, however, explain the bulges seen on each of the 8's, most prominent on the east "waist" of the third 8.

4. If one then superimposes the date 1887 in the same orientation of the underdate as described above, the seven would sit too low to account for the features classically described as being an overdate 8 over 7, especially the tip of the left serif. A simple 1888/887 overdate also would not explain the bulge along the "waist" seen on the last 8.

5. One might then say it's really an 1887/1888/1888. There are problems with this. First, there are no features of a "first" 188 underdate in the correct orientation. Why would only the 7 boldly survive? Secondly, if the 1887 die was lapped, most of the 7 would have been destroyed. Thirdly, even if a portion of the 7 did remain, when the die was then struck with the first 1888 date,

punched low, the top loop of the last eight would have further removed most of the "upright" of the 7 said to be currently visible in the upper loop of the last eight. Once it was recognized the date 1888 was too low, there would have been a SECOND lapping of the die with the date then repunched correctly. It is unlikely that any remnant of the 7 would have survived being lapped and repunched twice.

6. There are features of the overdate itself that appear suspect. What is described as the underdate 7 has irregular, jagged margins. The lower tip of the left serif of the purported seven is claw like. While the edge of the "claw" closest to the third 8 could be concave and still be the tip of a 7, the convex margin (rather than flat) towards the second 8 is suspect. When other overdates in the series are studied (i.e.: 1858/7 S1, 1859/1859 S1, 1888/7 S1, etc.) the underdate is faithfully preserved. The underdate may be reduced in size or conspicuity (from lapping or repunching) but the fidelity of the margins are preserved. The surviving margins are smooth (not jagged). They are free of significant distortion or contour deformity.

Additionally, if the 1887 were punched using the orientation of the visible underdate, the left serif of the 7 should project lower. If the underdate 7 position is as illustrated by the overlay on page 10 of *Longacre's Ledger*, Vol. 9.3, issue 41 (and one assumes the coin IS a 1887/1888), why isn't the base of the 7 visible (as it is on the S1)? Why would the lower tip have been completely effaced with such complete preservation of the upper portion? Using the orientation of the underdate, there should be a remnant of the underdate 7 between the denticles and the base of the last 8 (assuming a simple 1887/1888 overdate).

Finally, the images referred to in *Longacre's Ledger* above should not be relied upon with regard to the underdate features. I don't believe the copper nickel example, being a harder alloy, is as well struck-up as the bronze coins are. In the absence of a specimen, refer to *Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Die Varieties* by Larry Steve and Kevin Flynn, 1995, page 144.

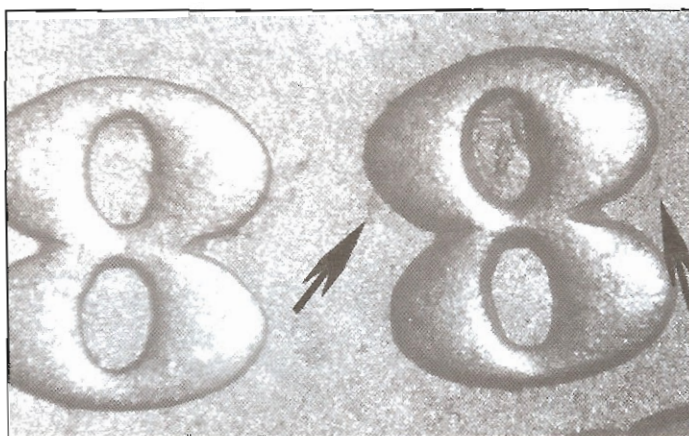
This being said, what DOES account for the markings superimposed on the final 8 of 1888? I don't know. Let's assume the S2 really is an 1888/1888 RPD. Per-

haps during the lapping process to efface the 1888 underdate, the die was scratched. Perhaps a mint worker decided to further efface the final 8 (this being a key feature) and saw they were making matters worse, then decided to leave "well enough alone". The die could have been damaged in some other fashion. Perhaps it's an intriguing combination of die scratches for which no explanation will ever be found.

For the reasons stated above, I have serious doubts that the 1888/1887 S2 is an overdate. It is more likely an 1888/1888 RPD. I am sure of one thing. Additional thought and research proving this theory one way or the other would be appreciated by the membership of the society. ♥



This overlay indicates where you might see evidence of an underlying 7 on a true overdate.



Questions have been raised regarding the legitimacy of this 1888 Snow 2 being a 1888/7 overdate.



This overlay supports the theory that the 1888/7 Snow 2 is simply a repunched date.

Rarity of Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Cuds

by Chris Pilliod

Cuds and die breaks are fun to collect and, in this market, still represent an affordable error to add to anyone's collection. An understanding of cuds and their rarity on Flying Eagles and Indian cents requires a bit of a history as well as technology. But first, the technology.

For Indian cents the obverse die was placed in the upper or hammer position but for Flying Eagles it was opposite—the reverse die was the hammer die. This is important with respect to cuds for this reason. Imagine a crack forming and growing and finally fracturing. If that broken piece is the reverse die it is still held in place for what can be a remarkably long time by the surrounding collar. On the other hand if it is in the obverse die without benefit of any collar, it succumbs immediately to gravity and forms a full cud. This is why so many reverse die breaks on Indian cents are retained cuds and almost all obverse die breaks are large, full cuds.

So what impact does this have on rarity? Well, good question. The answer is two-fold, maybe three-fold.

While the press operators and inspectors probably didn't care or didn't even notice a doubled die or repunched digit, they were very much in tune with cosmetic blemishes on the die, and a cud would most assuredly capture their attention. Now, if it is a retained cud on the reverse and they look at the defective coin and it still maintains all the detail except for a crack, well likely for the sake of austerity it will be left in commission.

On the other hand, an obverse crack on an Indian cent breaks off immediately and forms a deep, full cud. This coupled with being very visual on the obverse makes for premium appeal. In addition obverse cuds tend to be rarer as it would have in all likelihood been immediately retired for the sake of artistic preservation.

Furthermore, another critical aspect is that by today's standards during the last half of the 1800's everything was still struck with the relatively cumbersome steam press. So by the time an inspector noted any blemished die, how many more coins could be struck? I truly believe it is conceivable that very few (in some cases



Indian cents were struck with the obverse die in the hammer position. The 1865 cent at left bears no denticles on the cud as its die piece has fallen out with gravity. Compare with the 1864 Bronze cent at right and note how the denticles represent the die piece has not fallen away completely due to being held in place by the collar.



Flying Eagle cents, when compared to Indian cents, utilized the opposite hammer and anvil die positions. As such, this 1857 cent was struck with the reverse die in the hammer position. Note the complete lack of denticles as the broken die pieces have succumbed to gravity. Compare with the Indian cents on preceeding page.

maybe less than 100) were actually struck before it was noticed. For some specific cuds I've looked for 25 years without finding another example.

Once modern electric presses came into being I think hundreds maybe thousands could be spit out before

someone said, "whoaa, we got a problem." That's why some modern cuds can be found with much greater amount of frequency, making the hunt for Flying Eagle and Indian cent cuds even more of a challenge. ♥

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The Fly-In Club Welcomes Our Newest Members

by Vernon Sebby

As an ongoing feature, we'd like to welcome our new members:

Member	State	Sponsor
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Stewart C.	Texas	none
Richard M.	New Jersey	Rick Snow
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Tom F.	Pennsylvania	Ed Vojtas
Robert G.	Virginia	Darrell Tyler
Bruce B.	Illinois	Rick Snow
Frank F.	Connecticut	Rick Snow
Russ G.	New Jersey	Returning member

Thank you for joining us. If you haven't already done so, please check out our web site and online talk forum at www.fly-inclub.org. If you have any questions or comments about the club, please contact me, Vern Sebby at PO Box 162, LaFox, Illinois, 60147, or email, melva6906@indianvalley.com ♥

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Fly-In Club Talk Forum

by Dave Noble

I would like to take a little time to discuss the Fly-In Club Talk Forum and web site. We have set up a talk forum at: [www. Fly-inclub.org/talk](http://www.Fly-inclub.org/talk), I made an attempt to contact all members by e-mail in hope of getting the word out. My concerns are that not all emails were received by all of the members, so I asked for this opportunity to place the information in the Ledger where all members can be reached.

The Forum has proven to be a great means of communication between members, club officers and Rick himself. We are currently working on such items as a Variety Price Guide, and Complete variety listing by Snow numbers to be placed on our web page. Please take time to visit the talk forum and go through the registering process, it is a great way to keep informed of club activities and interact with fellow members. We post pics to the site and

have some discussions of varieties and values of our coins, it's a great help if you have some questions, or just need a helpful opinion now and then. I am in the process of updating the web page and adding some variety related information, I hope to have this done in a week or two, so please do visit both sites.

The location of the web page is
[www. Fly-inclub.org](http://www.Fly-inclub.org)

The talk site is located at
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Thanks, and hope to see you there.

Dave Noble
Web Master ♥

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How to submit a coin for attribution: There is no limit on submissions. All coins should be sent to Fly-In Club Attribution :

**Rick Snow,
P.O. Box 65645
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All coins should be sent with a listing of the coins, their insurance value, and a return address and phone number.

How much does it cost?: Please include \$4 per coin, plus return postage. All coin will be returned via the U.S. Post Office by registered and insured postage. Their cost is \$8 plus \$1 for every \$1,000 in insured value.

What will I get?: All new listings will be added to future editions of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent book by Rick Snow. New varieties will be listed in a future issue of *Longacre's Ledger*, space permitting.

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